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SIDE UP.**



**St. Paul
DODGE**

HOLIDAY DEADLINE
Due to the New Year's holiday, the deadline for the Jan. 3, 2017 issue is 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28.

UP FRONT
Jack and Jill Playschool students had their turn in the spotlight at their Christmas Concert.....Page 2





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‘Tis the Season!

Capacity crowds of proud parents, grandparents and siblings enjoyed a pair of musical concerts performed by Elk Point Elementary School students last week. Above, the combined Grade 1A and Grade 1B classes held LED candles as they urged Wednesday's audience to "Shine Your Light," while below, the Grade 5A class smiled down on the KA's rendition of "Nuttin' for Christmas" at the Thursday concert. Stories on Pages 3 and 5.



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Jack and Jill Playschool celebrates Christmas



EVERYBODY SING! - After the morning and afternoon classes sang individual numbers, both classes got together to sing "Way Up in the Snowflake Tree" and "Jingle Bells." Left to right are Sadie Gladue, Cooper Tizzard, Savannah Erickson, Lincoln Jurak, Hudson Krankowsky, Montana Sharkey, Frank Killam, Hunter Pankiw, Derwin Panganiban, John Garnier, Jaxxon Schell, Parker Preddy and Luke Osinchuk.

ROYAL PURPLE
secretary Verna Lazicki and president Lois Sharek presented Jack and Jill instructor Tammy Klatt with a \$2,000 donation.



HANDMADE WITH LOVE - Brandi Krankowsky displays one of the log-slice snowmen Tammy and Darryl Klatt and family crafted for each playschool student as a Christmas gift, along with handmade tree ornaments.

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**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**



**Elk Point
REVIEW**

WARMEST WISHES TO OUR READERS!
Vicki & Mel
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Big hugs all around!

Elk Point Elementary School's Grade 3B and KB students combined their talents to sing "Must Be Santa," complete with actions and hearty "Ho! Ho! Ho!" at Wednesday's concert.

'Tis the Season for songs by KB, Grades 1 to 3

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

A full hour of Christmas music entertained a gymnasium packed with proud parents, grandparents and siblings on Wednesday as the Kindergarten B class joined Grades 1 to 3 in their annual concert, entitled "'Tis the Season", under the direction of Quinn Shelton.

MCs Konnor Poitras and Sharienne Ginez welcomed the audience and introduced principal Rob MacDonald, who acknowledged that "a lot of time and a lot of practice" go into the creation of a concert.

The Grade 1A class was first to perform, and sang the Sharon, Lois and Bram favourite, "Skinnamarink",

recited a seasonal poem and finished up with an old classic, "The Holly and the Ivy." Grade 1B joined them to sing, "Shine Your Light," with the B class staying on stage to sing "This Old Man" and "O Christmas Tree."

"Christmas is My Favourite Time of Year," Grade 2A sang to open their part of the program, before continuing on with "Jingle Bells" and "Christmas Time is Here."

The next group to take the spotlight was Grade 3A, who gave a lively rendition of "Jingle Bell Rock", followed by the mellow "Christmas is a Feeling", and were followed by the 2B class who explored "The Wonderful World of Christmas", told about the sea-

son's "Fun, Fun, Fun" and assured the audience, "We Can Make a Difference."

The 3B students were "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" and enjoying "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" before they were joined by the KB students for "Must Be Santa."

The KB class gave an energetic performance as they answered the question, "What Do We Put on the Christmas Tree?" complete with all the actions.

All six Grade 1 to 3 classes joined the little ones for the two final numbers, wishing the crowd, "Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas" and ending on the school's traditional note with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."



Grade 2A

The Grade 2A class tells the audience their many reasons why "Christmas Is My Favourite Time of Year."

Grade 2B

Grade 2B is having "Fun, Fun, Fun" at the Wednesday concert as they perform, complete with the sound effects from their imaginary instruments.



Grade 3A

Grade 3A rocked their way through "Jingle Bell Rock" in their first number at this year's concert.

Vicki Brooker photos



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overflow with happiness
and good fortune!
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to all of the people and businesses who
donated items for our

Residents Christmas Party
on December 8.

Items were used as door prizes and to
raise money through a raffle and silent
auction. We would also like to thank all
who volunteered in many ways to make
our party a huge success.

EDITORIAL

We wish you a Happy New Year

Now that the traditional 'figgy pudding' is just a sweet memory and the shortbread cookies are just a few crumbs in an empty cookie jar, it's time to take a deep breath and prepare for a brand new year.

It's really hard to believe that it's 17 years since the Millennium, when New Year's Eve celebrations were dimmed by the prospect that all the computers around the world might crash on the stroke of midnight. It didn't happen, it still hasn't happened, and it's a good lesson in not worrying about things that may never happen.

After all, what do we know about what will actually take place in 2017, other than the town's utility rates going up, and that we will celebrate 150 years of Canada as a nation?

Now that is definitely something to look forward to, and it's almost certain that everyone has some special way in mind to mark this auspicious milestone. Those of us who are old timers remember the huge hoopla that surrounded Canada's 100th birthday in 1967. There are landmarks from sea to shining sea that were created that year, including St. Paul's UFO landing pad, and many buildings bear 'Centennial' on their nameplates. What can we do to mark this great big birthday half a century later? The possibilities are endless, and they are up to us to develop and carry out to make this year almost as remarkable as Canada's Centennial year.

It's also hard to believe that Fort George and Buckingham House Provincial Historic Site will mark its 25th anniversary this year, which means it is 225 years since the Hudson's Bay and North West Company built their rival fur trade forts on the hills high above the North Saskatchewan, and opened this area to an influx of newcomers that is still ongoing. Whatever the new year may bring, we wish that it is a special and memorable year for all of you, with good health, good fortune and good times for all our readers, and of course, good news for our pages.

RECREATION CORNER

Deadline extended for Community Enhancement grant

recreation@elkpoint.ca
Review Contributor

Judging for the residential Christmas light contest was quite a challenge for our judges, who found many beautiful displays to rate on their volume, innovation and theme. Check out the winners on Page 6, and why not drive around this week and see all these great light shows for yourself! A whole lot of effort was put into these by the residents, and we really appreciate their outstanding results. Good job, everyone!

Heads up! Two weeks ago, I mentioned the Community Grant application was due on the 6th of January.

Council has decided to extend the deadline to March 16th to ensure you have enough time to get your financial statements together. The Town will be hosting an open house to assist nonprofits with grant applications and will have more information on all the grants out there.

For more information please contact the Town 7807243810 or town@elkpoint.ca.



WAY BACK WHEN...

Pared-down budget, slimming Santa, skateboarding elves

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 27 IN...

1986

Elk Point town council approved a change to monthly billing of utilities at their final meeting of the year, a change from billing every two months. Hospital receptionist Rodah Lorensen was honoured with a farewell party as she retired after 11 years of service.

1991

Town council pared their operating budget right down to the bone, but administrator Ken Kendall said this would still add about 3/8 per cent to the following year's tax bills. Pauline Pankiw, Bill and Adella Jennissen and Rick and Brenda Patroch were the residential winners in the chamber of commerce Christmas lighting contest.

1996

A slimming Santa, Theodore Bear home from college for Christmas, Mrs. C's North Pole romance and Rudolph discovering that moose horns are too heavy for flying headgear were all part of the Elementary School's Christmas concerts. Home Hardware was home again, in a handsome larger store on the site of Phil's Hardware, which had been destroyed by fire earlier in the year, with Lesia, Adolph and Curtis Porcina as the proud new owners.

2001

Retiring teacher Ron Onusko was honoured at F. G. Miller's Christmas Brunch, an event he was involved with for many years. Performers of all ages took part in the Christian Community Church celebration of "A Joyous Christmas."

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

2006

Elves on skateboards competed in a Survivor challenge and reindeer did the hokey pokey as Elk Point Elementary students wound up the year with enormously successful concerts. David Buksa and Jeannette Bouchard took first prize in the chamber's Christmas lighting and decorating contest, with Mavis Smereka coming second and Donna and Gary Gulayec tied with Cheryl and Harvey Derewynka tied for third.

2011



SANTA IS AMBUSHED BY PIRATES, who are amazed that he willingly gives away all his loot every Christmas, before a packed audience at the Wednesday concert at Elk Point Elementary School.

The extensive lighting display at Willie Lesyk's Ravine Drive home wrapped all the way around to the backyard, and delighted Chamber of Commerce lighting and decorating contest judges, who agreed it was this year's first prize winner, while Elvis Sibal's second prize winners even included music while Nemesio Tuliao's cheerful display placed third in the annual Christmas Lighting and Decorating Contest.

ELK POINT REVIEW

5022 - 49 Avenue, Elk Point, AB

Mailing Address:

Box 309, Elk Point, Alberta T0A 1A0
or Box 159, St. Paul, Alberta T0A 3A0

Publisher: Janani Whitfield

Editor: Vicki Brooker

Email Address: vbrooker@stpaul.greatwest.ca

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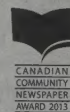


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REINDEER ALERT! Grade 5B sang 'Up On The Housetop.'



GRADE 6B livened things up with some 'Jazzy Jingly' Bells'.



CANON IN D was tapped out by the 4B class on xylophones, above. Below, Grade 5B adds some boomwhacker rhythm to 'The First Noel'.



'Tis the Season continues with Grades 4 to 6, KA

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The second capacity crowd in as many days was on hand Thursday for Elk Point Elementary School's second Christmas Concert of 2016, with Casey Warawa and Jayci Marcoux as master and mistress of ceremonies. Principal Rob MacDonald commented that "last week, stress was running high, but I think it's all pulled together now" into a successful event. He thanked the parents for trusting EPE with their children, who he said are "the best gift you could give us."

The show started off with three songs by the Grade 5A class, "Once Upon a Christmas," "When I Believe" and "Happy Holidays." The 4B students fol-

lowed, taking their place at rows of alto, soprano and bass xylophones to play "Canon in D."

Grade 4A asked for a round of applause for "Mrs. Claus," declared they wanted "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" and finished their set with "This Little Light of Mine." The 4Bs were next on stage, switching the tempo from a gentle "Lullaby for Christmas Eve" to a bouncy number entitled, "Who Put the Christmas Presents Under the Tree?"

An unusual rendition of "The First Noel" was sung and tapped out by the 5B class on pipe-like instruments called 'boomwhackers.'

The Grade 6Bs gave an old favourite an update with "Jazzy Jingly Bells" and told the audience to "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and were

followed by the 6As with a bucket-drumming version of "Trepak."

Grade 5A went "Up on the Housetop" and sang about a "Marshmallow World" before the 6B group showed their prowess on the xylophone, playing the "William Tell Overture."

"A Winter Wish" was expressed by Grade 6A, who then welcomed the KA children to join them in a crowd-

pleasing performance of "Nuttin' for Christmas." The kindergarten group then took centre stage to assure the audience that "Santa Claus is Coming Soon," under the watchful eye of music director Quinn Shelton.

The entire cast of the afternoon's production joined in the two final numbers, "Holly Jolly Christmas" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."



APPLAUSE FOR MRS. SANTA was requested by the 4A class.



WHERE DID THEY COME FROM? Grade 4B wondered how all those gifts got under the tree.



WISING HAPPY HOLIDAYS - Grade 5A opened Thursday's concert with three festive numbers.

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Desiree Maas		

All is calm,
all is bright,
judges
awed by
Christmas
lights and
displays



This year, the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce Christmas Lighting and Decorating competition was judged by giving points on volume, innovation and theme. The Ginez home on Centennial Drive topped all three categories, to win a well-deserved first place. The frisky deer herd leaping through the yard of the late Violet McFadyen, surrounded by glittering lights in a two-lot-wide display created by Mryrna Fox tied for second and third with Patsy and Ed Zarowny's blue-and-white beauty spot. Honouable mentions go to last year's winners Elvis Sibal and David Buksa, Willie Lesyk, Nemesio Tuliao and Jack and Leona Bretzer. Thanks, everyone, for making Elk Point 'The Right Place to Be' for the 2016 Christmas season!



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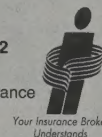
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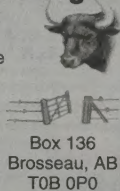
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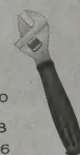
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Deck the halls!

The CanSkate crew not only skated with Santa last Wednesday, they also had a great craft session, making ornaments for their families' Christmas trees.

**School fees under SPERD review****JANICE HUSER**
Review Contributor

The School Fee Committee has been reviewing school fees across St. Paul Education Regional Division, putting together recommendations for schools to follow in the future.

"The committee found that parent complaints are few and generally speaking, current fee levels are not perceived as unreasonable. The committee felt that significant change was not warranted," says a draft recommendation presented at the monthly SPERD board meeting on Dec. 14.

Recommendations included items such as implementing common language across the division for specific fees; and fees should not be duplicated, for example schools should not charge a textbook fee, library fee, or other fees that are part of ordinary materials required.

Schools can only charge a fee to lease a padlock, not a locker fee, and padlock fees should only cover the

replacement cost of the lock.

Also, "Fees should not be charged for general supplies and equipment," notes the recommendation. For example, schools should not charge a Phys. Ed. fee to replace balls, rackets or nets. The school can however charge a fee for identifiable additional costs, such as a field trip to a climbing wall, or to an arena for skating.

The document also recommended an "increase in transparency on fees." Schools must submit a form outlining all fees to the board, and post it on their website.

In the end, school fees should be kept to a minimum, and used in the year collected. Also, "in all cases, provisions must be in place to accommodate students that cannot afford to pay a fee."

A motion to approve the recommendations was carried.

FSLW

Letters seeking support for the Family School Liaison Worker program will be sent out to municipalities soon.

Although the work done by FSLW staff sometimes falls outside the academic mandate, the positions are still essential, according to SPERD. Presentations on the FSLWs will be done as needed.

"It's a very valuable program," said Trustee Rhonda Lafrance, adding, schools would like to have even more workers if possible. In the past,

local municipalities have supported the programs.

Calendar

The first draft of next year's calendar has gone out to schools and SPERD is collecting feedback.

Superintendent Glen Brodziak said he has heard concern over have six full weeks before Christmas with no PD days to break it up.

"Maybe we need a PD day in December," he suggested. "It's an interesting idea. I didn't think it was a bad idea."

He added that often families take time to head to the city for a weekend ahead of Christmas, and families could plan around the PD day. The board will continue to collect feedback on the calendar.

Ashmont

The extreme cold weather experienced earlier this month did affect progress on the construction of the new Ashmont School, but the project continues to move ahead.

The board agreed at its Dec. 14 meeting to submit a letter requesting the new school be included in the recent announcement to install solar panels on new schools being built in the province.

Unfortunately, the Ashmont project had already been tendered, and so wasn't included in the announcement. Due to the project not being very far along, the board is hopeful an exception can be made.

"It doesn't hurt to ask," said secretary-treasurer

Jean Champagne.

The board agreed to move ahead with writing a letter and looking into what would have to be done to modify the school's plans.

Two Hills Mennonite

The new Two Hills Mennonite School is now closed in and "things are progressing," said Champagne. The board is working on confirming when students will be able to move into the school and a decision on the move-in date should be made early in 2017.

Rural caucus

Rural school boards are discussing if there's a need to create a rural school board caucus to address issues specific to rural schools.

Board chair Heather Starosielski and Superintendent Brodziak attended a meeting on the topic. They reported back to the board, asking if SPERD would be interested in joining a group, if it is formed.

Trustees noted a will to join a group, if it proceeds further.

"Busing is sort of how this all started," said Starosielski.

It was also noted that rural schools face issues unique to being in areas with less population, such as declining enrollment, while metro schools often face opposing issues, such as skyrocketing enrolment.

Trustee Deb Pederson was voted as a representative, if the group moves ahead with forming a caucus.

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3010. Auctions

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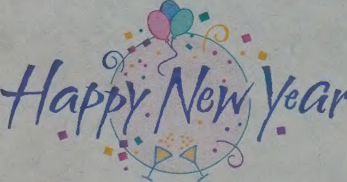
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REVIEW**

Wishing you a Happy New Year!

Thanks to all our friends, neighbours
and customers for your support in 2016.
We wish you all the best, and we look
forward to sharing the New Year with you!



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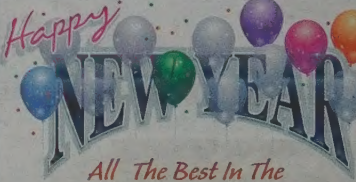
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As we count down to the final moment, we fondly
recall all the good times we've had seeing you,
and wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

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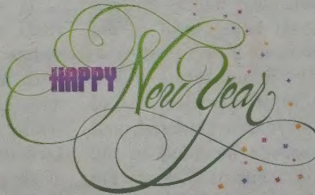
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